

URBAN DISTRICT OF WOMBWELL.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

By J. C. PICKUP, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
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Medical Officer of Health.



To the Chairman and Members of the Wombwell
Urban District Council.

Councillor Mrs. Mellor and Gentlemen,

This is my twentieth Annual Report on the Health of the
Urban District.

The Ministry of Health desires that the report should be
a short one on account of the war, giving mainly the statistics.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. PICKUP.

SUMMARY OF REPORT.

Population estimated by Registrar General for 1939	17,830
(mid-year)	
Excess of Births over Deaths for 1939	152
Number of houses occupied at the end of 1939	4,895
Ratable Value	£60,610
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£230

BIRTHS.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	311	153	158
Illegitimate	15	7	8
Birth Rate	18.2 per	,000 (England and Wales was 15)	

DEATHS.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:-	
Legitimate 42.8	Illegitimate Nil. Total 42.8
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
Adjusted Death Rate	12.5
Death Rate, Tuberculosis of Respiratory	
System	10 (0.55 per 1,000)
Death Rate, Zymotic Diseases	3 (0.16 per 1,000)
Death Rate, Respiratory Diseases	16 (0.89 per 1,000)
Death Rate from Cancer	20 (1.12 per 1,000)

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

This year's population gives an average number of persons per house of 3.642.

The estimated population in the various wards of the Urban District is given below:-

S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
2361	5754	3255	2665	3795

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year was made up as follows:-

(I regret that at the time this report was ready for circulation the above information was not available).

During the year 12 cases were admitted into, and 13 cases discharged from, Sanatoria.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The excess of births over deaths, or what is generally spoken of as "the natural increase of population" was 152. The balance on the year's working was therefore 0.85 per cent. of the whole population.

The distribution of the births in the Wards is as follows:-

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Males	20	44	29	26	44
Females	28	45	27	25	38
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 89	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 82

Of the total births, 15 (7 males and 8 females) or 4.6 per cent. were registered as being illegitimate.

DEATHS.

The total deaths amounted to 174, including deaths of residents dying outside the district and excluding non-residents who died in the district. They consisted of 99 males and 75 females.

Distributed in the Wards they were:-

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Males	18	31	10	13	28
Females	8	25	11	15	15
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 43

This gives a total death rate of 9.7 (adjusted to 12.5) per 1,000 as against 12.1 for England and Wales.

DEATHS IN QUARTERS.

49 for the first quarter, 41 for the second quarter, 33 for the third quarter, and 51 for the fourth quarter.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Death Rate 1939	Disease.	No. of Deaths in 1939.	Increase or decrease compared with 1938.	Death Rate 1938.
0.0	Enteric Fever	10	same	0.0
0.0	Smallpox	0	same	0.0
0.0	Measles	0	—	0.16
0.0	Scarlet Fever	0	same	0.0
0.0	Whooping Cough	0	same	0.0
0.11	Diphtheria	2	+	0.05
0.16	Influenza	3	+	0.11
0.55	Phthisis	10	+	0.44
0.11	Other Tuberculous Disease	2	+	0.05
1.1	Cancer	20	—	1.5
0.05	Rheumatic Fever	1	same	0.05
0.0	Meningitis (Meningococcal)	0	same	0.0
0.50	Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	—	0.64
2.69	Organic Heart Disease	48	+	2.56
0.05	Bronchitis	1	—	0.28
0.55	Pneumonia	10	—	0.61
0.28	Other Disease of Respiratory Organs	5	+	0.11
0.0	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	0	same	0.0
0.16	Appendicitis	3	+	0.11
0.05	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	0.11
0.32	Nephritis	6	—	0.44
0.0	Puerperal Sepsis	0	same	0.0
0.05	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	+	0.0
0.45	Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	8	same	0.45
0.39	Violent Deaths	7	+	0.8
0.05	Suicide	1	—	0.11
0.84	Other Defined Diseases	15	+	0.48
0.22	Peptic Ulcer	4	+	0.11
0.11	Diabetes	2	same	0.11
0.84	Ill Defined Diseases	15	+	0.0
9.7		174	—	10.6
(Adjusted to 12.5)			(Adjusted to 13.1)	

There were 14 inquiries held by the Coroner in Wombwell during the year (being 8.04 per cent. of the total deaths).

Post Mortem Examinations were carried out in 9 cases.

Of still born babies (17) there were 14 interred at Wombwell Cemetery, and 1 at Hemingfield Cemetery. The number of still born babies notified was 8.

The causes of Infantile Deaths were as follows:-
Premature Births 5, Pneumonia 2, Mongolism, Tonsillitis, Congenital Debility, Pyloric Stenosis, Melaena, Icterus Haemorrhagica, and Laryngismus Stridulous 1 each.

Infantile Deaths in Wards.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Males	-	3	1	1	4
Females	-	1	3	1	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

There was No Illegitimate Death during the year.

WARD STATISTICS.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Approximate Population	2361	5754	3255	2665	3795
All Deaths	26	56	21	28	43
Death Rate	11.1	9.7	6.4	10.5	11.3
Births	48	89	56	51	82
Birth Rate	20.3	15.4	17.2	19.1	21.6
Infantile Deaths	-	4	4	2	4
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 births)	-	44.9	71.4	39.2	48.7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The causes of Zymotic Disease were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	-
Diphtheria	2
Whooping Cough	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-
Smallpox	-
Measles	-
Enteric Fever	-

Under the Infectious Disease Notification Act there were notified 158 cases of Infectious Disease as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	31 (15 males and 16 females).
Diphtheria	25 (6 males and 19 females).
Puerperal Pyrexia	2 (2 females).
Whooping Cough	2 (1 male and 1 female).
Erysipelas	20 (10 males and 10 females).
Measles	2 (2 females).
Pneumonia	53 (26 males and 27 females).
Enteric Fever	1 (1 female).
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	14 (8 males and 6 females).
Tuberculosis (Non Respiratory)	5 (5 males).
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3

Notifications of Infectious Diseases in Wombwell in 1939.

	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	-
Diphtheria	24	2
Erysipelas	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-
Pneumonia	-	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-
Phthisis	-	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	2

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 or 73.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to all parts of the town is regular and adequate.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No new pollution of any rivers and streams was noticed during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The baths have been closed from the 1st September - as the baths are now used as a First Aid Post. Samples of water taken previously showed a high standard of purification.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition of the schools in the district is good.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS.

The number of deaths of Infants in the first month of life was 11.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

One case occurred during the year - in Hospital.

ANTENATAL CLINIC.

52 clinics were held through the year, 203 women made 1,552 attendances, giving an average of 29.8 per session.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITING.

Births.

First Visits	313
Re-visits during the year	1796
Re-visits over the first year	5050
Ante-Natal Visits	253
Still Births Visits	8
Other Visits	215
	<u>7635</u>

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

At the Wombwell Infant clinic, where 49 sessions were held, there have attended 5047 children, a weekly average of 103, 242 new babies have joined, 225 of these being under one year and 17 over that age. The doctor examined 1626 children during the year, an average of 33.1 per session.

At the Jump Infant clinic, where 52 sessions were held, 60 new babies have joined during the year. 58 of these being under one year, and 2 over that age, there were 1520 attendances, an average of 29.2 weekly, and 643 were examined by the doctor, the average per session being 12.3.

HOME HELPS.

This system although adopted by you and proved to be very satisfactory is very little used.


ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CENTRE FOR NON-TUBERCULAR CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

During 1939, there were 98 sessions and 2787 attendances.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. PICKUP.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOMBWELL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wombwell
Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a very brief report on the work carried out in the department during the year ended 1939.

As you are aware, you appointed me Co-ordinating Officer for Air Raid Precautions in April, in succession to Mr. Wellens, who retired from the position on account of ill health. As a result of this, work in the department was considerably curtailed, as a large proportion of my time as well as the staff was occupied in building up the A.R.P. Services which had to be given priority. With the appointment of J. Finney as Additional Sanitary Inspector the position became easier, although it was often necessary for him to give some of his time to A.R.P. work.

The housing scheme at Jump was completed and all the 74 houses were occupied during the year, 68 of these were let to persons displaced by slum clearance and 9 to overcrowded families.

Two blocks of four houses at Jump and 40 condemned houses at Hemingfield were still occupied in September. Most of the tenants have since found their own accommodation and the remainder will be moved into Council houses as these become vacant.

After a spell of very hot weather at Whitsuntide a number of complaints were received of a fly-infestation in houses in your own and the Rotherham Rural areas. There certainly was a bad infestation on the refuse tip at Brampton, but the flies had come from a manure heap outside your area which also contained offals collected from slaughter-houses. The turning over of this manure dump synchronised with the hot weather and the flies came over with the wind to the refuse tip and into the houses adjoining in both areas. It was at considerable time and expense that the flies were exterminated and there has been no recurrence since the manure was ploughed into the land.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There are only five of these structures occupied within the township. Legal proceedings were taken against the occupiers of three caravans and orders were made by the Court for the vans to be vacated and removed.

One occupant commenced to erect a permanent brick bungalow which has not been completed and another of the defendants removed his caravan from one site to another and has again occupied same. Owing to pressure of work in the department this position still obtains.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Notices were served and tenders obtained for the conversion of the remaining waste water closets, but the work did not go on, on account of the war. 29 extra W.C.s were provided for old property. The percentage of closet accommodation within the township is water closets 98.5, waste water 0.1, pails 0.4 and privy middens 1.0.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 15 farms within the district upon which milk is produced. One Tuberculin Tested (Certified) and six Accredited Licences are in force.

The structural conditions of the cowsheds and dairies, and the cleanliness and methods of production and handling of the milk is satisfactory.

No samples were taken during the year, but the County Officers come out and collect samples frequently.

PURVEYORS OF MILK.

There are 27 purveyors of milk on the registers, which include the local farmers.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 11 slaughter-houses privately owned.

The structural condition of 3 of these was considered by the Public Health Committee, but action was suspended until the termination of the war, or until the slaughter-houses require to be used.

MEAT INSPECTION.

441 inspections were made to slaughter-houses, as often as possible at the time slaughtering was in progress.

226 bullocks, 240 cows, 365 sheep, 459 pigs and 8 calves were examined.

The following was condemned or destroyed as unfit for human food;

Bovines:- 3 whole carcasses with organs and 2 forequarters, (total weight 159 stones), 10 heads and tongues, 12 livers, 33 sets of lungs, 5 kidneys and 10 mesenteries all affected with tuberculosis, 1 liver and 2 sets of lungs with cysts, 9 whole livers and portions of 32 livers with distomatosis, 2 angiomata livers, 2 livers, 2 lungs and 1 kidney with multiple abscesses, 1 cirrhotic liver, 1 forequarter and 1 pluck with extensive bruising.

Pigs:- 18 heads, 1 liver and 15 mesenteric fats with tuberculosis, 1 cirrhotic liver and 2 livers with cysts.

Sheep:- 10 livers with distomatosis and 12 livers with worms.

18 lbs. of tinned corn beef was also destroyed.

FOOD PREMISES AND SHOPS.

269 visits were made to premises and shops where food is prepared or stored for sale and 68 visits were made to your markets.

NUISANCES.

Of 275 nuisances needing abatement, 257 were satisfactorily dealt with. 225 informal notices were served and 216 were complied with.

They consisted of minor housing repairs, defective drainage, inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation etc..

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

This is carried out entirely by the Council's own staff. During the year 3873 loads of refuse were collected and all of this was disposed of by controlled tipping at Brampton and Jump.

Considerable trouble and expense has been caused at the Jump tip by mischievous youths setting fire to the tip on two occasions.

It is estimated that the 3873 loads weighed 8340 tons.

	Tons.	Cwts.
The estimated weight collected per 1,000 houses	1703	14
The estimated weight collected per day per 1,000 houses	4	13.4
The average estimated weight collected from each house	1	14.1
The estimated weight collected per 1,000 population	467	14
The estimated weight collected per day per 1,000 population	1	5.6
The average estimated weight collected per head of population -		9.4

SCAVENGING COSTS.

	Collection			Disposal			Total		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Total Costs	2863	-	-	360	-	-	3223	-	-
Average Cost per day	7	16	10.5	-	19	8.7	8	16	7.2
Cost per estimated ton	-	6	10.3	-	-	10.4	-	7	8.7
Cost per 1,000 of population	160	11	5.3	20	3	9.7	180	15	3
Cost per 1,000 of pop. per day	-	8	9.6	-	1	1.2	-	9	10.8
Cost per 1,000 houses	584	17	7.8	73	10	10.6	658	8	6.4
Cost per 1,000 houses per day	1	12	0.6	-	4	0.3	1	16	0.9

The rate required for scavenging and cleansing (street cleansing excluded.) was 1/2.

SALVAGE.

Towards the close of the year it was decided to salvage waste paper. A baling press ordered in November was not delivered until the following February.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Twenty houses were represented in the early part of the year as individually unfit, 12 of which became operative.

8 houses at Jump were left occupied because the demolition orders had not been served prior to receiving Housing Circular No. 186, dated 8th September, 1939.

I desire to record my appreciation of the support received from the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, and the help generously given as required by the Clerk of the Council and the Chief Officials of other departments, and to the Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Clerk in the Public Health Department (both now serving in H. M. Forces) who throughout the year have so willingly carried out their duties.

I am Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. WARD,

Sanitary Inspector.

Date		Time	
1	10	10	10
2	10	10	10
3	10	10	10
4	10	10	10
5	10	10	10
6	10	10	10
7	10	10	10
8	10	10	10
9	10	10	10
10	10	10	10